

Historical Dictionary of MALI

third edition

by

Pascal James Imperato

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This book is dedicated with affection to
Helena Segy
and to the memory of
Ladislav Segy

whose enthusiasm for the wonders of Mali
has given me much inspiration

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Bibliographic Introduction

The purpose of this bibliography is to provide readers with an introduction to the vast literature on Mali. This body of literature spans virtually every discipline and continues to grow each year. Although much of what has been published on Mali is in French, recent years have witnessed a steady growth in the number of writings in English. This reflects both the increased attention given to Mali in the areas of politics, economics, and current events in the English speaking world and the contributions of historians, social scientists, archaeologists, art historians etc. from Great Britain, the United States, and elsewhere.

Prior to 1970, most research in Mali was conducted by French nationals, a fact which is reflected in the literature up to that time. During the colonial era, which ended in 1960, both a lack of interest on the part of researchers from the anglophone world and disincentives created for them by the colonial administration greatly limited the size of the English-language literature. During most of the 1960s, Mali's Marxist government created a closed and controlled society in the interests of achieving political objectives. As it attempted to collectivize farmers, dismantle the structures of traditional societies, and build a Marxist-socialist state, Mali's government actively discouraged researchers from abroad. While a limited number of researchers managed to overcome the government's significant obstacles, most were unsuccessful in receiving permission to carry out their projects. The open policy of the government of Moussa Traoré, which took power through a coup d'état in 1968, became apparent in the 1970s as relatively large numbers of anglophone researchers came to Mali, many of them Americans on Ford Foundation grants. Other English-speaking nationals came to work in development programs, often under the auspices of nongovernmental organizations. Some later published descriptions of their work or else wrote about special studies which they had conducted.

A favorable environment for research by non-French nationals was also created in the 1970s by Mali's diversification of its political, cultural, and economic ties with other countries in Western Europe and with the United States and Canada. The end result has been a steady growth

in the English-language literature on Mali since the 1970s. Yet despite this growth, most of what is published on Mali is still in French, reflecting the country's close economic, cultural, and political ties to the former metropole.

Scholarly research on Mali requires a knowledge of French since so many specialized writings are published in that language. However, there are enough published materials in English to provide adequate information on most subjects for those who are engaged in less than in-depth study.

This bibliography has been extensively revised since the previous second edition (1986). Several guiding principles have shaped this revision. In selecting new items for inclusion, significant emphasis has been placed on recent works in English. Close to 500 post-1985 citations have been added, many of which are in English. Given that some users of this work are francophone scholars, and recognizing the needs of anglophone scholars for access to the French-language literature, important post-1985 works in French have also been added. At the suggestion of readers and scholars, some pre-1985 English and French language works have been added since they are viewed as important to specific subject areas. No doubt, these selection criteria for new additions will result in some readers not finding citations of particular interest to them. However, the inclusion of important major recent works in both English and French will provide them with access to a topic-specific literature since these publications all include extensive bibliographies of their own.

A large number of pre-1970 citations listed in the previous two editions (1977, 1986) have been dropped. This decision was made on grounds of relative importance, and because these items can be found in Paule Brasseur's two-volume *Bibliographie générale du Mali* (Dakar: IFAN, 1964, 1970) and in more recent works which themselves contain extensive bibliographies. A significant number of pre-1970 citations have been retained. Some are considered classics in their subject areas, as for example the accounts of early European explorers and the anthropologic studies of Marcel Griaule and his colleagues. Others are judged essential to anyone seeking a deeper understanding of specific topics.

Readers can supplement the listings in this bibliography in a variety of ways. The existence of computer databases greatly facilitates electronic retrieval of country-specific publications. One such data base is *Infotrac*, which is available in many public and most university libraries. Its database, drawn from newspapers and periodicals, includes politics, economics, science, current events, and description and travel. A similar database is *Proquest*. The *Art Index*, *Education Index*, *General Science Index*, *Humanities Index* and *Social Sciences Index* are published annually, contain country listings, and are available in many public and university libraries. The *Dissertation Index*, available on computer, lists

doctoral dissertations going back to the nineteenth century and is cross-indexed for titles, authors, and subject matter. The *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* draws on an information base from selected popular periodicals that infrequently carry articles about Mali. However, its listings are supplemented by those in *Access*, which is annually issued in both printed and electronic formats.

Obtaining copies of monographs and articles has been greatly facilitated through electronic-based interlibrary loan programs. Most university libraries in the United States are able to obtain photocopies of articles published in even small circulation foreign language journals. The library of the National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C., annually acquires and catalogues a large number of articles, books, monographs, etc., in English and foreign languages dealing with Mali. These cover art, archeology, history, travel, general description, and the social sciences. Photocopies of specific articles can be obtained on request for a nominal fee. The museum's Eliot Elisofon Photographic archives holds many photographs taken in Mali. The Robert Goldwater Library of the Metropolitan Museum of Art possesses large collections of materials related to Mali's art and culture as well as relevant photographs. The newly constructed library of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City possesses large collections of materials dealing with fauna, flora, geology, archeology, and anthropology. The library also has a large photographic collection.

The publications in this bibliography have been listed under 10 broad headings and a number of subheadings. A new heading, Women's Issues, has been added, reflecting a nascent but growing literature. Certain publications are interdisciplinary in character and could be listed under more than one heading. These have been listed under the subject which best reflects their main thrust. Complete citational information is not easily available for some entries, especially older ones. However, enough data are provided to permit retrieval.

Bibliographic Sources

A major bibliographic source on Mali is Paule Brasseur's excellent work, *Bibliographie générale du Mali* (Dakar: IFAN, 1964). It contains 4902 entries listed under six large sections and numerous subsections, and contains an index by subject and author. Many of the items listed are annotated. In 1976, Brasseur published a second volume of her bibliography which follows the format of the first. Entitled *Bibliographie générale du Mali (1961-1970)* (Dakar: IFAN), 1976, it contains 2941 entries. This second volume has extensive listings of publications dealing with political developments, foreign affairs, and government in Mali during the decade following independence in 1960. These two volumes

constitute an extensive bibliographic source on Mali, and are an absolute must for anyone undertaking scholarly research. Joucla's *Bibliographie de l'Afrique occidentale française* (1937) is a standard for the period prior to 1937. However, items in it relating to Mali are now included in Brasseur's work. Dawn Bastian, Andrea Stamm, and Robert Myers have written the first English-language annotated bibliography of Mali. Entitled *Mali* (Oxford: Clio, 1994) it is a superb up-to-date annotated bibliography. It is available in the United States from ABC-Clio in Santa Barbara, California. There are a number of specific subject bibliographies, such as Mauny's "Bibliographie de l'empire du Mali," *Notes Africaines*, 82(1959):55-56, and bibliographies of single authors, such as "Principaux Ouvrages de Maurice Delafosse," *Outre Mer*, 1(1929):411-413. But virtually all of the publications listed in them can be found in Brasseur's bibliography. Many of the works cited in the present bibliography contain extensive bibliographies of their own. For example, Foltz's *From French West Africa to the Mali Federation* (1965) contains an extensive bibliography covering political developments in French West Africa and in Mali during the decades prior to 1960. Snyder's *One-Party Government in Mali* (1965) contains an extensive bibliography dealing with political developments in Mali from the 1930s through the early 1960s.

General Works

In the area of early European exploration and travel, the writings of Barth, Caillié, Lenz, and Hourst are especially valuable. Binger and Monteil provide vivid descriptions of southern Mali, and Gallieni, Mage, Raffanel, and Soleillet—along with Gray and Dochart—are sources of information about central and western Mali. The writings of Park, among the earliest, contain detailed descriptions of central and western Mali of those times. Gallieni, Mage, and Soleillet also furnish descriptions of the Ségou Tukulor empire and the Bambara country. Meniaud's work, *Les Pionniers du Soudan*, is a fine source of information covering the period of French penetration and conquest of what is now Mali, presented from a colonial-period perspective.

The travels of Ibn Batuta and Leo Africanus are easily available and provide much useful information about this area of Africa in the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, respectively. Ross E. Dunn's 1986 book, *The Adventures of Ibn Batuta. A Muslim Traveler of the 14th Century*, presents new and fascinating insights into Ibn Batuta, his travels and the places he visited.

More recent travelers to Mali have contributed to a growing body of travel literature. A number of these works are listed in this bibliography. They include Ernst Aebi's *Seasons of Sand* (1993), Michael Usher's *Two*

Against The Sahara. On Camelback From Nouakchott To The Nile (1988), and Peter Hudson's *A Leaf In The Wind. Travels In Africa* (1988). Thomas A. Bass' *Camping With The Prince And Other Tales Of Science In Africa* (1990) describes the work of a number of scientists in Africa. His sections on Mali cover the visit of Great Britain's Prince Philip (in his capacity as head of the World Wildlife Fund) to the Inland Delta of the Niger and Jeremy Swift's work among the Tuareg of Kidal.

The number of descriptive and interdisciplinary works continues to grow as well. Earlier ones often provide details about the periods in which they were written not contained in later works. Jean Paul Las-touillas' three volumes of description are a rich source of information about the Western Sudan from the 1930s through the mid-1970s. They recount the unusual experiences of a colonial medical administrator (and, later, technical medical advisor) in both prose and poetry.

Gérard Brasseur's *Le Mali* (1974) is an excellent monograph on Mali covering history, politics, economics, health, education, and many other subjects up through the early 1970s. Pascal James Imperato's *A Wind In Africa. A Story of Modern Medicine in Mali* covers not only health and disease but also presents detailed accounts of Mali's peoples, regions, political life, economy, and history. It provides a rare eyewitness account of the 1968 military coup d'état that toppled the regime of Modibo Keita. Imperato's *Mali: A Search For Direction* (1989) is a comprehensive treatment of the country's population, history, political life, economy, and culture. Sennen Andriamirado's *Le Mali Aujourd'hui* (1987) is a richly illustrated and comprehensive treatment of all aspects of Malian life, including politics, economics, and history. Two other volumes in French provide similar coverage: Joseph Roger de Benoist's *Le Mali* (1989) and Attilio Gaudio's *Le Mali* (1988). The Benoist volume is more detailed, particularly in the area of then recent political events. Unfortunately, these two volumes draw exclusively on the French-language literature. This is a significant flaw since much new knowledge in several subject areas has been published primarily in English.

Thomas O'Toole's *Mali In Pictures* (1990) is intended for young readers. It is beautifully illustrated in both color and black and white and covers the land, history, and government, people, and the economy. An earlier volume, *Mali* (1975), by Thomas O'Toole and Mark La Pointe, provides similar coverage and is also well illustrated. Kim Naylor's *Mali* (1987) is also intended for young readers. Its well-illustrated text provides a broad introduction to the country.

The *Post Report* and *Background Notes*, published by the U.S. Department of State, contain useful facts, the former emphasizing living conditions, and the latter, general, historical, political, and geographic information. These publications are periodically updated.

A number of recent works in the categories of description and travel

and those of an interdisciplinary character often cover other countries in addition to Mali. In order to assist readers, the inclusive pages of these works dealing with Mali are identified in parentheses at the end of these citations.

Timbuctoo has been described by several writers, but one of the most important works in English is Miner's *The Primitive City of Timbuctoo* (1953, 1965). This contains a detailed ethnographic description of the city based on the author's seven months of field research in 1940. It also contains much useful historical information. It is, however, somewhat dated now for certain matters but is nonetheless a valuable single source of information. Hall's *Timbuctoo* (1927) is an interesting travelogue but is devoid of extensive historical data. Seabrooks' *The White Monk of Timbuctoo* (1934) is a biography of Auguste Dupuis-Yacouba, the White Father (Père Blanc) missionary who married an African woman and lived on in Timbuctoo. It contains many useful historical facts. Welch's *The Unveiling of Timbuctoo* (1939) is a description of René Caillié's voyage. The social history of Timbuctoo is admirably presented in Saad's *Social History of Timbuktu* (1983), and the rule of the Arma (Ruma) in Timbuctoo is described in great detail in Abitol's *Tombouctou et les Arma* (1979).

Keita's *Kayes et le haut Sénégal* (1972) is a comprehensive two-volume work providing a detailed history of the town of Kayes and the region. Tellier's *Autour de Kita* (1898) is a classic source for a nineteenth-century description of Kita, a town in western Mali which played an important role in the early French penetration of the Western Sudan. Villien-Rossi's 1966 monograph on Bamako is an excellent description of Mali's capital and its economic and social life through the early 1960s. Meillassoux's 1968 book on Bamako, *Urbanization of an African Community*, has a narrower focus, but provides some broad descriptions of the city, its life and development.

There are a number of guides published about Mali, some in English, and all containing helpful information. Many are only available in Mali. A number of standard guides on sub-Saharan Africa and West Africa contain sections on Mali which are periodically updated.

A number of statistical annuals are published in Mali, usually as mimeographed soft-cover books. The most important of these is the *Annuaire Statistique*, a large volume published annually. Although these volumes are published late, they contain comprehensive and detailed statistical data on climate, demography, economic resources, transportation and communication, finance, and health. A large number of tables are provided, and data from previous years are presented for comparison. The *Comptes Economiques du Mali* and the *Rapport de l'Enquete Agricole* provide very detailed statistical data beyond those contained in the *Annuaire Statistique*. They are published annually but are running sev-

eral years late at present. In the health field, the *Rapport Annuel du Service de Santé* contains very detailed statistical data in the form of charts and graphs covering disease problems, health resources, and personnel. *Infrastructure Sanitaire* contains a detailed breakdown of health personnel by specialty, *région*, *cercle*, and *arrondissement*, and a breakdown of medical facilities by kind and location.

There are excellent maps of Mali available, the greatest detail being found in the 1/200,000 published by the Institut Géographique National in Paris. The bilingual *Michelin Road Map of North and West Africa* is extremely accurate and contains about as much detail as the ordinary reader would require. It is updated periodically.

Cultural Works

It is often said that although Mali is poor economically, it is among the most culturally wealthy countries in Africa. This rich cultural heritage is evidenced in the enormous body of publications under this rubric. Those listed here are but a selected proportion of what exists. In the field of earlier archaeological research, Desplantes, Filipowiak, Giroucourt, Lhote, Mauny, Thomassey, Monod, Szumowski, and Zeltner have written a large number of articles, a selection of which is listed. Beginning in the 1970s and continuing into the 1990s, several archaeologists have conducted important research in Mali, the results of which have greatly illuminated the prehistory of this part of Africa. The McIntoshes have written a number of publications based on their remarkable finds at Djenné-Jeno. Prominent among these is *Prehistoric Investigations in the Region of Jenné, Mali: A study of Development of Urbanism in the Sahel* (1980). In 1991, Raimbault and Sanogo edited an important work which brings together the current archaeological research of several investigators. It is entitled *Recherches archéologiques au Mali: Prospections et inventaire des fouilles et études analytiques en zone lacustre* (Paris: Editions Karthala, 1991). Huizinga and his colleagues extensively studied the Tellem caves and niches in the Dogon country and have published numerous articles. The results of their research are summarized by Bedaux in his 1977 publication, *Tellem*.

As archaeologists have carefully unearthed terra-cotta statues from *tumuli* (mounds) in the Inland Delta of the Niger, so too have others in search of profit. Prior to the early 1970s few terra-cotta statues appeared on the Malian art market, and these were most often accidentally found by Bozo fishermen along the banks of the Niger. During the 1970s, illegal digging in *tumuli* intensified as the world art market demand for these terra-cottas escalated. By the late 1970s extensive illegal digging was underway, an activity which the Malian government had few resources to prevent. The fact that collectors are willing to pay extremely high

prices for these terra-cottas serves to perpetuate illegal excavations and the smuggling of these antiquities. Roderick McIntosh discusses this problem in his 1986 article "Dilettantism and Plunder—Illicit Traffic in Ancient Malian Art," which is listed in the section on art. In 1985, Mali promulgated a new law that decreed that all artifacts unearthed after that date belonged to the nation. American laws against the sale of stolen property can be applied to Malian terra-cottas unearthed after 1985. These laws were put to the test in 1991 when the Malian government attempted to prevent the sale of a 31-inch-tall terra-cotta sculpture of a sheep by Sotheby's in New York City. Despite the efforts of the Malian government, the statue was sold at auction for \$275,000 ("Disputed Statue Sells for \$275,000," *New York Times*, November 21, 1991: C28). The Malian government's case was made difficult by the fact that it had to present firm documentation that the statue had been unearthed after 1985. The 1985 Malian law had little effect on the continuing plunder of archaeological sites until 1993 when the U.S. imposed import restrictions, under the 1970 UNESCO Convention, on a broad range of archaeological materials from Mali. These are described by Katherine Biers in "Mali Import Restrictions" (1994).

In the field of architecture, Gérard Brasseur's *Les Etablissements Humains au Mali* (1968) is a monumental work unrivaled for its comprehensiveness and detail. Prussin has written important English-language articles on architecture in Mali which contain much detailed information reflecting the high quality of her scholarly field research. More recently, Jean Louis Bourgeois has published on the architecture and history of the mosque at Djenné. Maas and Mommersteeg have published a comprehensive volume on Djenné's architecture, *Djenné Chef d'Oeuvre Architectural* (1992). It contains numerous illustrations, drawings, diagrams, and maps.

Mali is a country rich in art traditions, especially those of the Bambara and Dogon. These are described in great detail by several earlier French scholars, notably deGanay, Griaule, Dieterlen, Laude, Leris, and Zahan. A number of American scholars have made important contributions in recent years. These include Arnoldi, Brett-Smith, Ezra, Imperato, McNaughton, and others. Robert Goldwater's *Bambara Sculpture From The Western Sudan* (1960) is now a collectable classic. Although it is a derivative work and not based on direct field observations and contains some errors, it does provide a good overview of Bambara sculpture. Important English-language books on the arts of Mali include the following: Laude's *African Art of the Dogon. The Myths of the Cliff Dwellers* (1973); Togu Na (1977) by Spini and Spini; Imperato's *Dogon Cliff Dwellers: The Art of Mali's Mountain People* (1978); De Grunne's *Ancient Terracottas from West Africa* (1980), which is bilingual in French and English; De Mott's *Dogon Masks: A Structural Study of Form and*

Meaning (1982); Imperato's *Buffoons, Queens and Wooden Horsemen: The Dyo and Gouan Societies of the Bambara of Mali* (1983); and Ezra's *A Human Ideal in African Art: Bamana Figurative Sculpture* (1986) and *Art of the Dogon* (1988).

Some linguists have published dictionaries and other works on Mali's many languages. Included here are the works of Abiven, Bazin, Bird, Delafosse, deGanay, Labouret, Molin, Monteil, and Sauvart. A number of legends, fables, proverbs, and compendia of poems are also listed. But these scarcely reflect Mali's rich tradition of oral literature. Notable among English language publications dealing with Mali's folklore, poetry, or fables are *The Heart of the Ngoni: Heroes of the African Kingdom of Segu* (1982) by Courlander and Sako, and the writings of Veronika Görög and Gérard Meyer and Stephen Paterson Belcher.

Mali has been the setting for an astonishing number of novels, some of which are listed here. The earliest known of these is Prévost-Duclos' *Une Aventure à Tombouctou* (1882). Even Binger, the explorer, wrote a novel about the Western Sudan and Jules Verne wrote a short novel, *Into the Niger Bend*. The most important of the recent novels are Ouologuem's *Bound to Violence (Le Devoir de violence)* (1971), *God's Bits of Wood (Les Bouts de Bois de Dieu)* (1960) by Sembene, and *Segu* (1987) by Condé. All three are historical novels. The first, a rather controversial novel, portrays Africans as having been inherently debauched, without moral standards, and thoroughly evil well before the Europeans ever arrived. Into its 182 pages are compressed almost every heinous crime, debauch, and perversion imaginable, spanning the centuries from the days of the Mali empire to the present. Ouologuem adopts the antithesis position of many African novelists. The Europeans, well-meaning and naive, fall into the laps of Africans who are incredibly evil, devious, mean, and unscrupulous. This novel was awarded the Prix Renaudot in France. However, it is not held in high esteem officially in Mali. Soon after its publication in English, it was alleged that this novel contained substantial plagiarized sections from the works of well-known European authors. The American publisher withdrew the book from the market. Since then, scholars and others have meticulously examined this novel and found many similarities between it and the previously published writings of other writers and novelists. A detailed account of these allegations of extensive plagiarism can be found in Sellin's "The Unknown Voice of Yambo Ouologuem," *Yale French Studies: Traditional and Contemporary African Literature* (1976).

God's Bits of Wood describes the railwaymen of the Dakar-Niger railroad, fighting to preserve their wholesome values and social structures against the onslaught of Western technology. The Europeans emerge (as they do so often in many African novels) as being callously interested only in their narrow material gain; the Africans come through as virtuous

and good. Condé's *Segu* exposes the important social forces and conflicts that greatly affected the Bambara kingdom of Ségou during its apogee.

Economic Works

Economic data on Mali are available in a number of technical reports and papers. Of historical importance are the numerous writings of Bélémé, chief architect of the Office du Niger. Daget has written numerous publications on the fishing industry in Mali, Doutressoulle on livestock raising, and DuBois on a wide variety of subjects (in English). Ediafric in Paris has published a number of books dealing with the economies of African states, and some of these are listed. In recent years, the U.S. Agency for International Development has published a number of economic studies and development reports, all of which are available in English. A number of specialized reports and monographs have been published by a wide variety of international and bilateral assistance organizations, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and nongovernmental organizations engaged in technical assistance in Mali, often under contract with the U.S. Agency for International Development. Schissel's article "Mali: No More Room for Maneuver," *Africa Report* (1984) and Imperato's "Mali: Famine Again," *Lancet* (1985) provide valuable insights into Mali's failed development strategies.

Ernst's *Tradition and Progress in the African Village: Non-Capitalist Transformation of Rural Communities in Mali* (1976) is a Marxist view of social and agrarian development in rural Mali both during the colonial and early independence periods. Jones' *Planning and Economic Policy: Socialist Mali and Her Neighbors* (1976) focuses on Mali's first Five-Year Development Plan (1961–1966) and the economic policies of the Keita government. More recently Bingen has written about rural development in Mali. Rosenblum and Williamson, in their *Squandering Eden. Africa At The Edge* (1987), present a grim and critical portrait of development projects in the sahel and in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

Historical Works

There is a wealth of published material on the history of Mali from prehistoric times to the present. There are several general works written primarily for use as textbooks in primary school. These, however, contain a good outline of events and more information than is needed by the casual reader. Guilhem and Toe have written a *Précis d'histoire du Mali* (1963), which carries the story up through the early 1960s. Erny's book, *Histoire de l'Afrique de l'Ouest* (1968), covers more than Mali and consequently contains less detail. Hargraves' *West Africa: The Former*

French States (1967) is a good English-language history of French West Africa with emphasis on the period from the nineteenth century to the 1960s. The prehistoric period has been described by several authors and their works are listed.

The history of the precolonial period, covering the era of the three great empires—Ghana, Mali, and Songhay—and the more recent political states of the Bambara and Peul have been the focus of much recent scholarly research. The published results of this research as well as those of earlier scholars are listed. Included in this section entitled Precolonial and Oral History are a number of writings dealing with oral histories. These oral histories are transmitted and kept in Mali by bards known as *dyeli* or *griots*. Much of the information contained in these oral histories consists of myths, legends, and folktales. However, they are viewed by many Malians as legitimate components of their national history. In addition, they are often the only sources of information for certain periods and events.

There are a number of works available in English for the precolonial period, and important among these is Bovill's *The Golden Trade of the Moors* (1958). Although somewhat of a popularized type of history, this book provides broad background information on the era and considerable detail. Thus, it is a good introduction for serious scholars and provides the ordinary reader with more than is needed. Davidson's *Old Africa Rediscovered* (1959) is the same type of book as the *Golden Trade of the Moors* and is an excellent source of information. Chu and Skinner have written *A Glorious Age in Africa: The Story of Three Great Empires* (1965), which provides primary and high school readers with ample information on Ghana, Mali, and Songhay. Serious scholars can easily get access to the *Tarik Es Sudan* and the *Tarik El Fettach*, which together contain detailed information on these empires. Mauny's *Tableau géographique de l'Ouest africain au moyen âge* (1961) is a good reference work for this period. Mauny has also published a useful bibliography of materials on Mali in *Notes Africaines* (1959). Niané has written a description of Sundiata Keita translated into English as *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* (1965). For the Songhay empire, Rouch (1953) and Sarr (1973) have both written detailed histories. Tauxier's *Histoire des Bambara* (1942) and Monteil's *Les Bambara de Ségou et du Kaarta* furnish broad overviews of the history of the Bambara and present considerable detail. Kestlelout and her collaborators have more recently written four booklets about Da Monson, the Bambara king, in *Da Monzon de Segou* (1972). This work essentially records portions of the Bambara Ségou epic as told by various bards. Yves Person's *Samori: Une Révolution Dyula* (1968) is a monumental two-volume work.

Overviews of specific periods of the precolonial era are provided in *History of West Africa*, Vol. 1 (1971), edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Included in this volume are "The Early States of the Western Sudan," by

Levtzion; "Songhay, Borno and Hausaland in the Sixteenth Century," by Hunwick; and "The Western Sudan from the Moroccan Invasion (1591) to the Death of al-Mukhtar al-Kunti (1811)," by Willis. The history of both Ghana and Mali are covered in Levtzion's *Ancient Ghana and Mali* (1973, 1980). Arabic sources for the early history of the Western Sudan are thoroughly presented in Levtzion and Hopkins, *Corpus of Early Arabic Sources for West African History* (1981). Another important source for the precolonial history of Mali is *The Cambridge History of Africa*. This is a multi-volume encyclopedic work. Its earliest volumes were published in the late 1970s. Several chapters spread over volumes 2, 3, 5, and 6 cover aspects of Mali's precolonial history and are listed in this bibliography.

A large corpus of literature has developed over the past two decades concerning the histories of Ghana, Mali, Songhay, and later states in the western Sudan. Much of this literature is in English and important works from it are cited. A number of scholars have intensively studied written Arabic sources for this period while others have recorded and interpreted local bardic oral histories and traditions. Oral histories are generally viewed by historians as unreliable sources of information. They contain much in the way of myth, legend, and folktale and are subject to the risks of generation transfer. While these histories inform about what bards currently know, they may not really document what actually happened in the historical past.

A rich source of information about Ghana, Mali, and Songhay as well as other states are the writings of various Arabic scholars which were composed over a period of several centuries. Because a number of these accounts are secondary in character, their reliability is suspect. They may in fact transmit what were originally oral histories carried across the desert to the Mediterranean world, histories replete with myth, legend, and folktale. Despite these drawbacks, modern historians have attempted to interpret the information in them in order to arrive at some reasonable conclusions about the early history of this area.

The firsthand accounts of Ibn Batuta in the fourteenth century and Leo Africanus in the sixteenth, coupled with the accounts in the *Tarikh es Sudan* and the *Tarikh el Fettach* and the writings of some arabic scholars, have formed a basis for some scholars in attempting a reconstruction of the history of the three ancient empires. Given the character of the available oral and written histories for the period of the three great empires, it is not surprising that modern scholars sometimes differ in their conclusions about what actually took place.

The decline of Ghana is a good example of how available information can be differently interpreted depending on one's view about its reliability. The long-held view of many scholars has been that Ghana's decline in the eleventh century was the direct result of the invasion of the

Almoravids, a confederation of militant Moslem Sanhaja and other Berber tribes of the Sahara. Some scholars have given 1076 as the date of the Almoravid destruction of Koumbi, the capital of Ghana. This long-held conquest view has been challenged by David C. Conrad and Humphrey Fisher, whose writings on the subject are cited. Their studies break much new ground and should be read by all those interested in this subject. Based on an examination of external Arabic sources and local oral sources, they hypothesize that there was no Almoravid conquest and forced conversion of Ghana. They further postulate a peaceful conversion of Ghana and a cooperative arrangement between it and the Almoravids.

Other scholars have postulated that even if there was no direct Almoravid conquest of Ghana, the arrival of the Sanhaja with their large herds rapidly resulted in serious environmental degradation within the borders of Ghana. This in turn led to a collapse in agriculture. According to this view, while the Almoravids did not conquer Ghana directly, their presence in the western Sahara and within the borders of Ghana caused an inevitable decline.

This bibliography lists the publications of a number of scholars who have written about Ghana, Mali and Songhay. In the section on Precolonial History and Oral History some 50 new entries have been added. Among recent scholars who have made important contributions in this area are: Youssouf Cissé, David C. Conrad, J.M. Cuog, Paulo F. de Moraes Farias, Humphrey Fisher, Michael Gomez, Thomas Hale, Lansiné Kaba, Adam Konaré Ba (wife of the President of Mali), Alpha Oumar Konaré (President of Mali), Nehemia Levtzion, John Van Dusen Lewis, Raymond Mauny, A.M. McDougall, Madina Ly Tall, and others.

Later states in the western Sudan have also been the subjects of much recent study and have been added to the bibliography. Some of this research has focused on historical figures who have in the past received little attention. Among these figures is Sidi Al-Mukhtar bin Ahmad bin Abu Bakr al-Kunti, a Kunta religious and political leader who united various Qadiri factions in the middle Niger in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Although Paul Marty discussed al-Mukhtar al Kunti in his now classic four-volume work on Islam and the tribes of the Soudan (see entry under Religion-Islam), it has only been in recent years that John Ralph Willis (see entry under Precolonial and Oral History) and Dennis D. Cordell (*Dar Al-Kunti and The Last Years of the Trans-Saharan Slave Trade* [1985]) have examined this leader more fully.

New light has been recently shed on the essential role of slavery in the economic prosperity of the Ségou Bambara state by Richard L. Roberts in his *Warriors, Merchants and Slaves. The State and the Economy in the Middle Niger Valley, 1700-1914* (1987) and by Sarah Brett-Smith in her 1987 article, "Bamanakan ka gelen: The Voice of the Bamana is

Hard" (see listing under Bambara, Malinké, Bozo, and Somono). The latter exposes an uncomfortable subject for many Western and Malian scholars. Brett-Smith's article became the object of a vehement attack consisting of a consensus letter by several scholars published in the August 1988 issue of *Mansa*. This statement took issue with broader topics raised in Brett-Smith's article, specifically that she had characterized the Bambara as defined by slavery, violence, and the harsh Sahelian environment. The writers also charged that she had erroneously described the Bambara as being greedy, jealous, unable to communicate, murderous, and disdainful of human life. Brett-Smith retorted with a letter published in the December 1990 issue of *Mansa* (see entry under Bambara, Malinké, Bozo and Somono). In addition Douglas Newton, the Chair of the Department of Primitive Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, wrote an eloquent criticism of the original consensus letter (see entry under Bambara Malinké, Bozo, and Somono).

The writings of those French military men who were responsible for the planning and execution of the conquest of the Western Sudan contain valuable information. Archinard, the man who carried out the acquisition of the country east of the Senegal River and brought down the Ségou Tukolor empire, wrote several major works, two of which are listed. Faidherbe, who conceptualized the acquisition of the Western Sudan at a much earlier period, was a prolific writer and scholar. Included is his *Le Soudan Français* (1889). Frey, Gallieni, and Joffre were responsible for the military operations which brought most of what is now Mali under French control.

In recent years, three excellent English-language works have been published covering the period of the latter half of the nineteenth century. The first of these is Kanya-Forstner's *The Conquest of the Western Sudan* (1969). A work of great scholarship, it presents and analyzes the French military occupation of what is now Mali. Kanya-Forstner also describes the dynamics of the relationships between the leading French military men in the field and their interactions with the government in Paris. Oloruntimehin has covered the same period in his excellent *The Segou Tukolor Empire* (1972), the emphasis of which is on the relationship of the French to the Tukolor and on the military conquest of the empire by the French. Both provide extensive and detailed information and should be consulted by anyone interested in this period. They both contain extensive bibliographies.

More recently, David Robinson has described the jihads of El Hadj Omar Tall in his excellent volume, *The Holy War of Umar Tal: The Western Sudan in the Mid-Nineteenth Century* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985).

The colonial history of Mali has received little attention from scholars in the postindependence era compared to other historical periods.

There is, nonetheless, some scholarly activity in this area reflected in several new additions to the bibliography. *African Proconsuls* (1978), edited by Gann and Duignan, contains authoritative biographies of a number of European colonial governors. Specific to Mali are those of Faidherbe, Gallieni, Binger, and Ponty. Mali's history during both the colonial and postcolonial eras, as seen from the perspective of statistical data, is presented in *Mali: A Handbook of Historical Statistics* (1982) by Imperato and Imperato. Decraene's *Le Mali* (1980) is a succinct and compact paperback that covers Mali's history from the precolonial era through 1979.

Political and Judicial Works and Current Events

Modern political developments in Mali have been profusely documented. Foltz's book *From French West Africa to the Mali Federation* (1965) describes the political processes which led to both the formation of the federation and its eventual break-up. This book also delves into the political developments in the French Sudan prior to independence and the formation of the federation. It contains an excellent bibliography. Snyder's *One-Party Government in Mali* (1965) describes the development of political parties in the French Sudan from the 1930s through 1960. Snyder's article on the Keita years in *Africa Report* (1969) summarizes the characteristics of the Keita regime and the causes of the 1968 coup d'état. Other useful information on Mali during the 1960s is to be found in the writings of Grundy, Hodgkin, Hopkins, Morgenthau, and Wallerstein. Pierot's *L'Administration Malienne* (1979) describes Mali's internal administrative structures and functions and how they changed over time. It also provides useful details on the Malian civil service and extensive statistical data on how it was apportioned among various ministries.

Jouve's *La République du Mali* (1974) presents a good political overview of Mali from independence through the early 1970s. Political developments in the late 1960s and early 1970s are covered by Bennett (1975), "Military Government in Mali," and by Wolpin (1975), "Decadency and Conservative Militarism in Mali." Rawson's "Mali: Soldiers as Politicians," in *The Performance of Soldiers as Governors: African Politics and the African Military* (1980), edited by Mowoe, contains an excellent analysis of the Military Committee of National Liberation and of Mali's movement toward civilian rule in the late 1970s. Decraene's *Le Mali* (1980) also contains many useful details on the military committee and on its eventual dissolution.

The student strikes and demonstrations of the 1980s are well documented in a number of publications cited in the bibliography. Similarly the 1985 war with Burkina Faso is covered in several publications. Segun

Johnson's 1985 article, "Burkina-Mali War. Is Nigeria Still a Regional Power," gives comprehensive coverage to this topic. Mali's prodemocracy movement of the early 1990s is extensively covered in several publications, a number of which have been added to this bibliography. The massive popular demonstrations of the coup d'état of March 26, 1991, that led to the ouster of Moussa Traoré are also extensively covered in a number of publications listed. Pascal James Imperato's 1991 article, "Downfall of a Dictator," *Africa Report*, 36, No.4(1991):24-27, provides much detailed information about the political social and economic factors that led to the coup d'état of 1991.

The organizing of political parties in 1991 and 1992, including the resuscitation of the long-defunct Marxist Union Soudanaise-RDA, is charted through a number of listed articles, as is the election of Alpha Oumar Konaré as Mali's fourth president on April 26, 1992.

The Tuareg rebellion in northern Mali, which began with armed attacks in early 1990, has been extensively covered in the press and in specialty publications. A number of important publications covering this subject have been added to the bibliography.

Close to 100 new items have been added to the bibliography section on Political and Judicial Works and Current Events, most of which are in English. They chart the important political events of the late 1980s and early 1990s—the prodemocracy movement, the coup d'état of 1991, the establishment of political parties, free elections, the Tuareg rebellion and efforts at its resolution, and the challenges facing Mali's new democratically elected government.

Scientific Works

A large number of publications deal with the geography of what is now Mali. Notable among these are the numerous publications of Chudeau, Cortier, and Desplagnes, who headed an ethnographic and archaeological mission to central Mali in the early part of this century. Furon Gallais' *Le Delta intérieur du Niger* (1967) is a monumental geographic and ethnographic study of the inland delta. A third volume is destined to be published. Hubert, Jaeger, and Karpoff have written numerous publications dealing with geology.

In the field of medicine the number and scope of publications have been significant over the years. Bouffard wrote a large number of papers in the early part of this century describing a variety of disease problems. Gallay's *Trois Années d'assistance médicales* (1909) is a vivid description of medical services in Mali in the early part of this century. A large number of publications in English on medicine and health care in contemporary Mali are by Pascal James Imperato, and the most important of these have been included. Some of these deal with the effects on health

of the drought of 1972-1974, as does the Kloth monograph, *Sahel Nutrition Survey* (1974). Lhote's monograph, *L'Hygiène mobile* (1960), describes the formation of the mobile medical service of French West Africa. May and McLellan's *The Ecology of Malnutrition* (1969) contains an excellent chapter on Mali providing detailed information on diets, food habits, and nutrition surveys. More recently Katherine A. Detwyler has published several studies dealing with nutrition and related topics. *Les Blancs pensent trop* (1966), by Parin et al., provides interesting insights into the psyche of the Dogon people. The broad health problems of Mali in the 1960s are covered in volume two of Deutschman's *Public Health Problems* (1966); although a dated publication, this work still contains much relevant data on Mali. Current medical problems and the activities of the Institut Marchoux (leprosy treatment and research center) and the Ophthalmologic Institute (IOTA) in Bamako are presented and discussed at the annual technical meetings of the O.C.C.G.E. A *Rapport final* is published in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, each year by the organization's secretariat and is available on request. These reports provide current up-to-date information not only on health problems and programs in Mali but in all the member states.

Since the mid-1980s, the number of medical articles on Mali indexed by the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, has grown significantly. On average, a score of articles are being added to the peer-reviewed medical literature each year. Those published in some 3,000 peer-reviewed medical scientific journals worldwide are indexed by the National Library of Medicine for the *Index Medicus* and for computer databases such as *Medline*. While country-specific breakdowns are not provided in the *Index Medicus*, they are for *Medline*. Thus one can easily retrieve by computer the medical articles published on Mali in a given period that appear in some 3,000 medical scientific journals. The *Index Medicus* is available in print form in all major medical libraries, while *Medline* can be easily accessed through an even larger number of libraries in Europe and the United States.

Since the last edition of this volume (1986), close to 300 articles have been added to the medical literature. Some 92 have been selected for inclusion in this bibliography, providing for good coverage of all disease and health care topics. In the late 1980s, the National Library of Medicine began indexing the titles of foreign language medical articles in English in order to assist English speakers in subject-specific searches. This format has been followed in this bibliography.

The *Index Medicus* and *Medline* do not index medical books. However, the R.R. Bowker Company, the publisher of *Books In Print*, publishes a special volume on medical books.

A number of studies have been published on traditional medicine in Mali and most of those by Imperato are in English and readily available.

Among these is *African Folk Medicine: Practices and Beliefs of the Bambara and Other Peoples* (1977). A recent French-language volume on traditional medicine is R.P. Denis Malgras' *Arbres et Arbustes Guérisseurs des Savanes Maliennes* (1992).

Botany, Zoology and Conservation

Mali's Gourma elephants have been the focus of much study and concern in recent years. There are currently about 500 elephants migrating in the *cercles* of Douentza and Gourma-Rharous. Man-elephant competition has intensified as Tuareg nomads have become sedentary and have begun to cultivate lake shores. Livestock demands on a fragile ecosystem also threaten them as do recurrent droughts. The best current description of these elephants, their environment, and related issues is contained in an article by Robert Pringle and Noumou Diakité entitled "The Last Sahelian Elephants, *Swara*, 15, No.5(1992):24-27.

Women's Issues

Women in Mali occupy a social position grossly inferior to that of men. In urban settings and in some families, this situation has slightly improved. However, the vast majority of women in Mali are relegated to social, political, and economic positions inferior to those of men. While some efforts have been made by women in Mali to change this situation, they are nascent in character and have had little or no impact on the lives of the majority of women.

The publications listed in this section of the bibliography cover a number of issues related to women, including the emerging women's movement.

Social Works

A large number of anthropological and ethnographic studies have been published over the years. Prominent among these have been the studies of Griaule, Dieterlen, deGanay, Paques, Zahan, Monteil, Dominique Amadou Traoré, Moussa Travélé, and others. Griaule and Dieterlen have published an enormous corpus of information on the Dogon people, and Zahan, deGanay, and Paques have written many publications on the Bambara. Their writings reflect meticulous field research. Earlier writers on the Bambara include Henry, Tauxier, and Labouret. The present bibliography lists the most important writings in this field. The books listed all contain extensive bibliographies of their own. Some of these books have been translated into English for the Human Relations Area Files and this is noted in the entry. Zahan's *Antilpoes du Soleil. Arts et Rites Agraires d'Afrique Norie* (1980) is a monumental work that analyzes the Tyi Wara society of the Bambara of Mali. In it, the author pro-

vides several hundred line drawings of the various styles of antelope headdresses used by the Bambara. Zahan is also the author of *The Religion, Spirituality, and Thought of Traditional Africa* (1979), which includes important information on the Bambara of Mali. His monograph, *The Bambara* (1974), covers Bambara views of the deity, ancestor worship, cults and initiatory societies.

The literature on a number of Mali's ethnic groups continues to grow. A number of important new studies have been published on the Minianka by Jean-Paul Colleyn, Philippe Jaspers, and Danielle Jonkers. These are all listed in the bibliography. Although Paul Stoller's work on the Songhay was carried out in nearby Niger, it is included since many of his findings apply to the Songhay of Mali.

Several new publications dealing with Christianity have been added to the bibliography.

Islam is covered in a number of works that deal with the religion in the broader context of West Africa. Trimingham's two works, *Islam in West Africa* (1959) and *A History of Islam in West Africa* (1963), both provide general and specific information about Islam in Western Sudan. Kaba's *The Wahhabiyya: Islamic Reform and Politics in French West Africa* (1974) specifically deals with a movement that took root in Bamako among the merchant class and then spread to a limited extent. The author furnishes a broad introduction to Islam in this part of Africa in addition to presenting the Wahabiya in detail. Brenner's *West African Sufi. The Religious Heritage and Spiritual Search of Cerno Bokar Saalif Taal* (1984), although focusing on a prominent convert to the Hamalliya, provides an excellent account of the brotherhood's origins and its development. It is less than convincing, however, in refuting interpretations of this sufi order previously provided during the colonial era by French observers. Paul Marty's four-volume work published in 1911 in French—also the later writings of Cardaire—are important references for Islam in what is now Mali.

Several important new additions have been made to the bibliography on Islam. These include Stephen Albert Harmon's Ph.D. dissertation, "The Expansion of Islam Among the Bambara Under French Rule: 1890-1940" (1993), Christopher Harrison's *France and Islam in West Africa* (1988), and John Ralph Willis' *In The Path of Allah: The Passion of Al-Hajj Umar, An Essay Into the Nature of Charisma in Islam* (1988).

Press and Publishing

Newspapers and magazines published in Mali are generally difficult to obtain outside the country, except in research libraries. The liberalization of the press in the late 1980s resulted in the appearance of a number of newspapers and magazines. *L'Essor* has been the official government newspaper since Mali became independent in 1960. It began publication

in 1949. From 1953 to 1968 it was the official publication of the Union Soudanaise-RDA and between 1968 and 1979, the publication of the Comité Militaire de Libération Nationale. Between 1979 and 1991 it was the official publication of the Union Démocratique du Peuple Malien. The daily issue carries local news, speeches and trips of government officials, international news, and some feature stories. For most of its publication history, *L'Essor* regularly printed dispatches and stories from Communist news agencies. Because many of its staff were trained in the former Soviet Union and in the former Communist countries of Eastern Europe, they were Marxist in their political views. The collapse of the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union had a significant negative impact on the pro-Communist slant of many of *L'Essor's* news and feature stories.

Les Echos, a bi-weekly independent newspaper, was founded by Alpha Oumar Konaré, Mali's current president. During the prodemocracy movement of 1990–1991, it served as a vehicle for putting continuing pressure on the government of General Moussa Traoré for reform. It has a circulation of 25,000. Several other independent newspaper/news-magazines were founded during the prodemocracy movement period including *L'Aurore*, *La Roue*, and *Yiriwa*. Other newspapers and news magazines include *La Republicaine*, an independent newspaper launched in 1992; *L'Afro-Arabe Revue* (quarterly, circulation 1000); *Barakela* (monthly), published by the Union Nationale des Travailleurs du Mali; the national labor union; *Concorde* (weekly, circulation 500), published in French and Arabic; *Danbé* (biweekly), published by the Comité National d'Initiative Démocratique; *Jamana—Revue Culturelle Malienne* (quarterly), a cultural publication founded by Alpha Oumar Konaré, Mali's current president; *Kabaaru* (monthly, circulation 5,000), a Fulbe-language newspaper; *Kibaru* (monthly, circulation 5,000), published in four languages; *Mali Muso* (quarterly, circulation 5,000), published by the Union des Femmes du Mali; *Podium* (weekly), covers culture and sports; *Sunjata* (monthly, circulation 3,000) covers social, economic, and political affairs; *L'Informateur* (monthly pictorial), published irregularly by the Ministry of Information; *Etudes Maliennes* (quarterly, circulation 500), a cultural journal published irregularly by the *Institute des Sciences Humaines*; *Journal Officiel de la République du Mali* (monthly), carries all official notices and changes in laws; *Bulletin de Statistiques* (monthly), contains useful updated information on a variety of subjects.

Prior to Mali's independence, the *Soudan Français* was the daily newspaper. A number of newspapers were published by political parties in the 1940s and 1950s, and shortly after independence some short-lived magazines like *Le Mali* were published for a while. A number of publications, usually in mimeographed form, were put out by political parties,

summarizing meetings and presenting resolutions adopted. Such publications are not easily found. Both Foltz and Snyder have included long lists of these types of publications in the bibliographies included in their political works, *From French West Africa* (1965) and *One-Party Government* (1965), respectively.

There are currently two book publishers in Mali, Editions-Imprimeries du Mali and Librairie Populaire du Mali. The latter publishes school books and books on sociology, history, and folklore. These publications are sold in the retail stores of the Librairie Populaire du Mali.

News Agencies

The Agence Malienne de Presse et Promotion (AMAP) was set up in 1977 through a merger of what was then the state publicity and news agencies; it replaced the Agence Nationale d'Information du Mali (ANIM). There are several foreign news bureaus in Bamako. Among them are Agence France-Presse (AFP), Informationsnaye Agentstvo TASS (Russia), and Xinhua (People's Republic of China).

Radio and Television

In 1995, there were an estimated 475,000 radio receivers in use in Mali. Radio Mali broadcasts from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M., carrying news, interviews and discussions, musical entertainment, and dramatic presentations. Most of the broadcasting is in French, with local-language news segments aired at mid-day and in the early evening. Radio Mali broadcasts a major news program twice a day at noon and at 6:00 P.M. Many of the news items used to be derived from Communist news sources. In the early 1970s, the People's Republic of China constructed a modern radio broadcasting facility on the saddle of the mountain connecting Point-G with Kati. Its large antennas provide Radio Mali with the capability of reaching much of West Africa. Several private radio stations were launched in 1991 and 1992. In September 1983, a national color television network was inaugurated, built with assistance from Libya. In 1989, the government set up solar-powered public viewing centers in Koulikoro, Ségou, and Sikasso. In 1995, there were 15,000 television sets in use compared to 2,000 in 1989. Radio and television are administered by Radiodiffusion-Télévision Malienne, which broadcasts television for about 37 hours a week.

Keeping Up with Developments

It is not easy to keep abreast of developments in Mali by following only the general English-language media in the U.S.A. and Europe. Many events in Mali, as in many countries of Africa, are not covered or

if so only superficially. Thus, the serious student of Mali must consult a variety of specialty publications.

Afrique Nouvelle is a weekly newspaper published in Dakar. *Jeune Afrique*, a French-language weekly magazine published in Paris, carries most of the important Malian news items. *La Revue Marchés Tropicaux et Méditerranéens* is a monthly out of Paris. *West Africa* is an English-language weekly published in London; it covers major events in Mali and summarizes less important ones. The French daily newspaper *Le Monde* and its monthly *Le Monde Diplomatique* regularly carry news items about Mali. The *New York Times* only carries exceptionally important stories. One of the best sources for current information on Mali is the *Africa Research Bulletin*. Two series are published monthly—political and economic. The items in this bulletin are gleaned from a broad range of publications. *Africa Report*, published every two months by the African-American Institute, occasionally carries major stories on Mali and smaller items more regularly in its "Update" section. *Africa Confidential*, a bi-weekly newspaper published in London, is an excellent source of current information on Mali. Major events are given good coverage and less important ones summarized. *Afrique Contemporaine*, published in Paris by La Documentation Française, occasionally carries in-depth stories on Mali, and regularly covers ordinary events in summary fashion in its "Chronologie Sommaire" column. Recent publications on Mali are also reviewed in the section "Ecrits Sur L'Afrique."

Annual economic and political updates in Mali are contained in *Africa South of the Sahara* published by Europa Publications Limited. Similar annual updates are also included in *The Europa Yearbook*, also published by Europa Publications Limited. The annual *Political Handbook of the World* is published by CSIA Publications, State University of New York at Binghamton. It contains current information on governments and intergovernmental organizations. *The Statesman's Yearbook* contains annually updated succinct information on most countries.

Mansa, the newsletter of the Mande Studies Association, is a quarterly which contains much useful information about meetings and conferences, book and article releases, the activities of various organizations and institutions, minutes of annual meetings, and other items relevant to Mali. It is provided as a benefit of membership. Membership information for the *Mande Studies Association* can be obtained from David C. Conrad, SUNY-Oswego, Oswego, N.Y. 13126.

As previously noted, the *Dissertation Index* can be used to access doctoral-level dissertations. In addition, University Microfilms International in Ann Arbor, Michigan, has a microfiche collection of documents and dissertations that deal with Mali. Some of these dissertations have been printed and bound and can be purchased.

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